

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A fluidized bed apparatus for batch-by-batch or continuous process control, comprising:

an air inlet chamber, a fluidization region, and a gas outlet,

at least two processing regions (6), each including two gas flow devices in a region between the air inlet chamber and the fluidization region for supplying fluidization means, and each of the processing regions (6) having corresponding pairs of jet inlet walls and jet return flow walls, as well as the side walls, the corresponding pairs of jet inlet walls and the jet return flow walls are inclined relative to vertical such that they each form a cone,

an expanded cross section of the fluidized bed apparatus located above the jet inlet walls and jet return flow walls, where the outlet for outgoing air is arranged,

the processing regions (6) are connected to each other by at least one overflow channel (5) and a first of the processing regions (6) is provided with a solids inlet (13) and a last of the processing regions (6) is provided with a solids outlet (7).

2. (Original) Fluidized bed apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the

at least one overflow channel (5) is arranged in adjacent jet return flow walls (2) of processing regions (6) arranged one next to the other and formed by channels or cross-sectional openings.

3. (Original) Fluidized bed apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the individual processing regions (6) are arranged one after the other and/or one next to the other.

4. (Original) Fluidized bed apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein sizes of the individual processing regions (6) are different.

5. (Original) Fluidized bed apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the individual processing regions (6) are separated from each other in a region of the air inlet chambers (8) by segmentations (4).

6. (Original) Fluidized bed apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the solids inlet (13) is arranged in a first of the processing regions (6) at an end or at a longitudinal side of the jet return flow wall (2).

7. (Original) Fluidized bed apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the

at least one overflow channel (5) comprises separate overflow channels arranged between the individual processing regions (6) so that the material is transported in a meander-like fashion through the individual processing regions (6) of the fluidized bed apparatus.

8. – 12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) Fluidized bed apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the individual processing regions (6) are the same size.